

HOW TO SELECT CULTURALLY AUTHENTIC MATERIALS BASED ON PROFICIENCY LEVEL

NOVICE-MID TEXTS

Novice-Mid-level students require short texts related to everyday personal experiences. Texts that are highly contextualized, supported by visual cues, and contain repetition of key words and phrases are appropriate for Novice-Mid-level learners. Interpretive tasks designed at the Novice-Mid level ask students to recognize key words and to identify important words, phrases, and main ideas.

NOVICE-HIGH TO INTERMEDIATE-MID TEXTS

The same texts may be used for Novice-High-level students through Intermediate-Midlevel students; however, the task changes. At the Intermediate level, students continue to look for main ideas, but also identify supporting details and derive meaning from context.

INTERMEDIATE-HIGH TEXTS

Text used at the previous levels may also be used with Intermediate-High-level students; however, the task changes. At the Intermediate-High level, students continue to look for main ideas, identify supporting details, and derive meaning from context, while they also begin to infer meaning, identify the author's perspective, compare cultural perspectives, and recognize the organizing principle of a text.

ADVANCED-LOW TEXTS

Text used at the previous levels may also be used with Advanced-Low level students; however, the task changes. At the Advanced-Low level, students continue to infer meaning, identify the author's perspective, compare cultural perspectives, and recognize the organizing principle of the text while they also begin to analyze and evaluate text for facts and opinions.

Suggested culturally authentic texts for interpretive reading tasks:

Novice-Mid Level

- Blogs
- Brochures
- Calendars and schedules
- Children's stories and poems related to novice contexts
- Directions
- Highly contextualized advertisements from a target country publication (print or online)
- ID cards

- Maps
- Menus
- Movie schedules
- Online weather reports
- Report cards
- Simple biographies from a target culture magazine (print or online)
- Simple letters or email correspondence
- Social networking sites
- Sports schedules
- Stories/songs
- Student schedules

Novice-High Through Intermediate-Mid Level

In addition to the above Novice-Mid level texts:

- Advice columns
- Photo stories with captions
- Simple stories

Intermediate-High Level

In addition to all above texts:

- Authentic short stories
- Contextualized comic strips
- Essays or editorials from newspapers
- Personal letters

Advanced-Low Level

In addition to all above texts:

- Editorials
- Novels

Suggested culturally authentic texts for interpretive listening/viewing tasks:

Novice-Mid Level

- Commercials from television, radio, Internet
- Podcasts
- Simple interviews, conversations, or surveys related to Novice content

- Songs related to Novice content
- Straightforward public service announcements from television, radio, Internet
- Video clips

Novice-High Through Intermediate-Mid Level

In addition to the above Novice-Mid level texts:

- Movie trailers
- Selected clips from movies
- Simple segments from television programs, such as soap operas or talk shows

Intermediate-High Level

In addition to all above texts:

- Contextualized animated cartoons
- Television shows on familiar topics

Advanced-Low Level

In addition to all above texts:

- Full-length movies